



2021 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Mini Call: Introduction/Question and Answers Webinar

May 21st, 2021
TDOT Long Range Planning Division

1

Tennessee CMAQ - Eligible Project Areas



Microsoft Teams Live

2

Agenda

- **CMAQ 2021 Call – Timeline & Overview**
- **What is CMAQ?**
- **Eligibility – Project Areas**
- **Eligibility – Project Specific**
- **Funding**
- **Buy America**
- **ADA Compliance**
- **E-Grants Application Process**
- **Questions and Answers**



3

2021 CMAQ Call – Timeline

- Letters of Intent
 - **Open – Tuesday, May 25, 2021**
 - **Due – Monday, June 7, 2021**
- Approvals/Rejections Provided to Applicants
 - **Tuesday, June 8, 2021**
- Full Proposals Open
 - **Wednesday, June 9, 2021**
- Full Proposals Close
 - **Monday, July 12, 2021**
- Awards Announced
 - **September/October 2021**

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/long-range-planning-home/air-quality-planning/cmaq-funding.html>



4



5

What is CMAQ?

Overview:

- The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program was established to help fund transportation projects or programs that contribute the non-attainment or maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).












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6

Eligibility – Project Areas

Tennessee CMAQ - Eligible Project Areas



- **Eligible Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) Attainment / Maintenance Areas:**
 - Whole: Anderson, Blount, Hamilton County, Knox & Loudon Counties
 - Partial: Roane County
- **Eligible Ozone (O₃) Attainment / Maintenance Areas:**
 - Whole : Davidson, Jefferson, Montgomery, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Sumner, Williamson & Wilson Counties
 - Partial: Cocke County



7

Eligibility – Project Specific

All CMAQ projects **must meet three basic requirements.**

Each project must:

1. Be a transportation project;
2. Be located in (or provide benefits to) either a non-attainment or maintenance area; and,
3. Have an emissions reduction benefit.



8

Eligibility – Project Specific

2013 CMAQ Interim Guidance – Eligibility Categories

VII.F.1	Diesel Engine Retrofits and Other Advanced Truck Technologies
VII.F.2	Idle Reduction
VII.F.3	Congestion Reduction/Traffic Flow Improvements
VII.F.4	Freight/Intermodal
VII.F.5	Transportation Control Measures
VII.F.6	Transit Improvements
VII.F.7	Bicycles and Pedestrian Facilities
VII.F.8	Transportation Demand Management
VII.F.9	Public Outreach and Education
VII.F.10	Transportation Management Associations
VII.F.11	Carpooling/Vanpooling
VII.F.12	Car Sharing
VII.F.13	Extreme Low-Temperature Cold-Start Programs
VII.F.14	Training
VII.F.15	Inspection and Maintenance Programs
VII.F.16	Innovative Projects
VII.F.17	Alternative Fuels and Vehicles



https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/policy_and_guidance/2013_guidance/cmaq2013.pdf

9

Funding

100% Federal Share (No Match Required):

- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)*
- Carpool
- Vanpool
- Traffic Signalization
- Other safety projects



80% Federal Share (20% Local Match Required):

- All other CMAQ Projects



50% Federal Share (50% Local Match Required):

- Funds that involve a public/private partnership (PPP)
 - A legally binding, written PPP agreement must be in place if awarded



10

Buy America Requirements

- 23 CFR 635.410 and 23 U.S.C. 313
- Any **permanently incorporated steel and/or iron**:
 - **Federal Highway Administration requirement.**
 - All manufacturing processes, including application of a coating, **must occur in the United States.**
 - Coating: all processes which protect or enhance the value of the material to which the coating is applied.
 - Regulations do permit **minimal use** of foreign steel and/or iron in a Federal-aid project:
 - \$2,500 or one-tenth of one percent, whichever is greater.



11

ADA Compliance

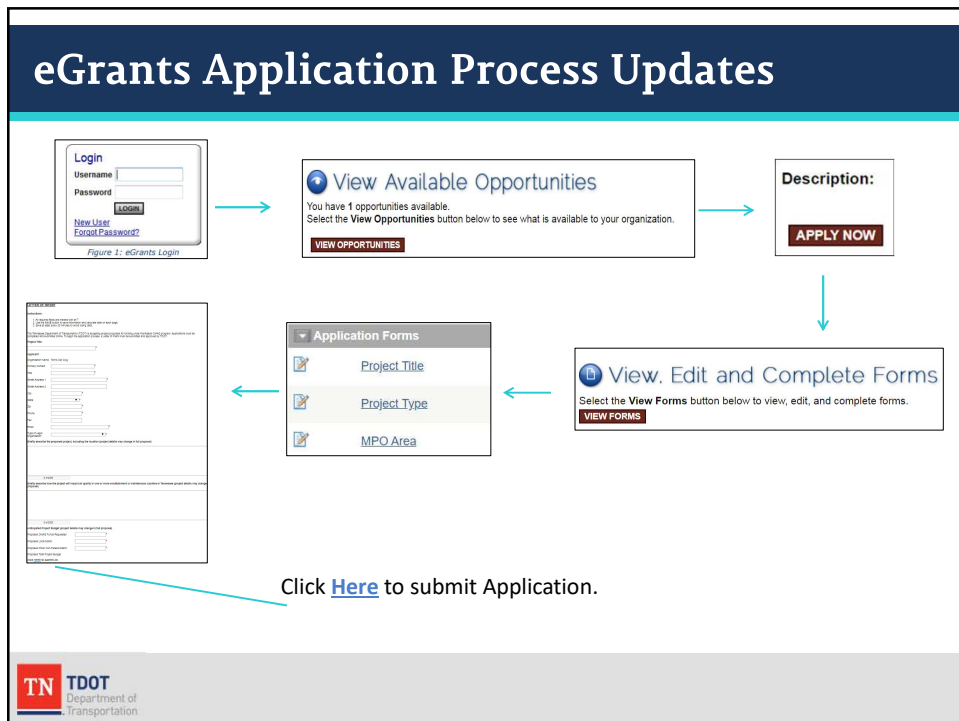
- Additional work required to address accessibility deficiencies within the limits of the project and any ADA upgrades:
 - **May not be eligible for 100% federal funding.**
 - Require a **20% local match.**
- Estimating Project Costs:
 - Scope projects to **address accessibility** related issues.
- Must comply with:
 - Roadway Design Guidelines Chapter 3 MM Design
 - FHWA ADA Transition plan requirements as of 2019.
 - For more guidance, refer to the **Roadway Design Division's ADA Office.**
 - Refer to Traffic Operation Division's TOM to evaluate triggering work.



12



13



14

New Application Components

- Goals and Objectives Timeline must include:
 - 1) Specific, measurable, and achievable actions that outline the "who, what, when, where, and how" of the project
 - 2) Broad long-term vision of the project
 - 3) Clearly defined strategies and/or implementation steps to attain identified goals
 - 4) Any potential obstacles, and the project's readiness for implementation
- Option to upload Buy America Certification Letter



15

Project Description

Please Describe:

- 1) Why the project sponsor is proposing to deliver the project
- 2) Any innovative elements
- 3) Alignment with regional priorities and other local complementary projects




16



17

Can a project extend beyond a non-attainment/maintenance area?

- Yes. However 50% or more of the primary air quality benefit must be in the eligible non-attainment/maintenance area.
- Counties adjacent to the eligible area can be included in the application but should not be the primary focus of the emissions reductions.

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18

How detailed should the project budget be?

- Project budgets should provide an accurate picture of the activities that are necessary to carry out the project. Submitted budgets should be detailed, and to the degree possible, based on reliable cost estimates for activities proposed in the project.



19

Can CMAQ awards be used to hire full-time employees?

- Personnel costs could be an eligible item for some projects that require personnel to perform the work of the grant-funded activities.
- Eligible billable time is based on an employee's time directly spent conducting activities for the project. This must be documented as part of the project's reporting.
- Examples:
 - Outreach Coordinator of a rideshare or transportation demand management project.
 - Preliminary Engineering
 - Operating Assistance

*(Operating Assistance is only eligible for up to 5 years of Federal funding.)



20

How are projects evaluated and ranked through the project selection process?

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Emission Reduction Estimates | 1- 20 Points |
| • Cost-Effectiveness of Project Emission Reductions | 1- 15 Points |
| • Quality of Emissions Reduction Estimation Methodology and Analysis | 1- 15 Points |
| • Regional Efforts and Complementary Projects | 1-10 Points |
| • Regional Priorities | 1-10 Points |
| • Project Readiness | 1- 15 Points |
| • Project Schedule and Project Management | 1- 15 Points |



Total Possible Points: 100

21

What will be a competitive application?

- TDOT values a diverse set of projects and approaches to improve air quality and reduce congestion throughout the state.
- To encourage all types of project submissions, projects will be grouped with similar projects and scored against one another, rather than scoring each individual project against one another.
- No single type of project is more likely to be awarded CMAQ funding. We want to award the strongest projects of all eligible project types.



22

What establishes a Public-Private Partnership?

- Before a CMAQ-funded project may be implemented, a legally binding partnership must be developed. A written agreement must be in place between the public agency and the private or non-profit entity.
- Usually, TDOT accepts a letter of support from a public sector indicating the financial federal investment is protected.
 - In case of an ownership change, issues related to insolvency, etc.



23

What if I cannot fit the narrative within the word count?

The e-Grants software limits the word count to help make the review process easier, and to standardize the narrative portion of all applications.



24

What are some tools to calculate emissions metrics?

- https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/cmaq/toolkit/
- FHWA's Office of Natural Environment has developed various tools helpful for the implementation of the CMAQ Program.



25

How long will it take to obtain funding after my project is awarded?

- TIP/STIP will need to be amended and approved
- Initiation Packet completed and submitted within 30 business days of issued Award Letter
- NEPA/Buy America
- Contract
- Request funding to be obligated
- Funding is obligated
- Notice to Proceed is issued



26

How much funding is available?

- We do have approximately **\$20 million** available to award in this call for projects; however, the final awards made will be dependent on the number of applications we receive.



27

Who should I contact if I'm having trouble with the eGrants software?

- Air Quality Planning Office
 - TDOT.CMAQ@tn.gov
- E-Grants Help Desk
 - helpdesk@agatesoftware.com
 - 1-800-820-1890

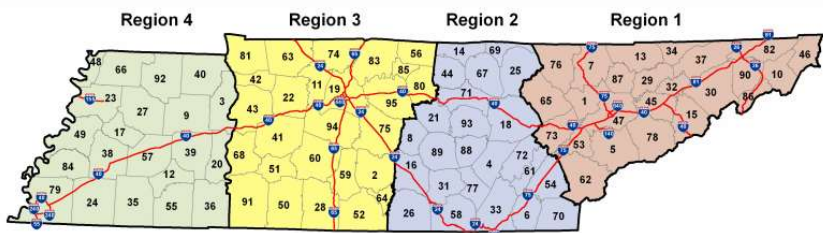


28



What questions do you have today?

29



Alphabetical List of Counties in Tennessee

01 Anderson	17 Crockett	33 Hamilton	49 Lauderdale	65 Morgan	81 Stewart
02 Bedford	18 Cumberland	34 Hancock	50 Lawrence	66 Obion	82 Sullivan
03 Benton	19 Davidson	35 Hardeman	51 Lewis	67 Overton	83 Sumner
04 Bledsoe	20 Decatur	36 Hardin	52 Lincoln	68 Perry	84 Tipton
05 Blount	21 DeKalb	37 Hawkins	53 Loudon	69 Pickett	85 Trousdale
06 Bradley	22 Dickson	38 Haywood	54 McMinn	70 Polk	86 Unicoi
07 Campbell	23 Dyer	39 Henderson	55 McNairy	71 Putnam	87 Union
08 Cannon	24 Fayette	40 Henry	56 Macon	72 Rhea	88 Van Buren
09 Carroll	25 Fentress	41 Hickman	57 Madison	73 Roane	89 Warren
10 Carter	26 Franklin	42 Houston	58 Marion	74 Robertson	90 Washington
11 Cheatham	27 Gibson	43 Humphreys	59 Marshall	75 Rutherford	91 Wayne
12 Chester	28 Giles	44 Jackson	60 Maury	76 Scott	92 Weakley
13 Claiborne	29 Grainger	45 Jefferson	61 Meigs	77 Sequatchie	93 White
14 Clay	30 Greene	46 Johnson	62 Monroe	78 Sevier	94 Williamson
15 Cocke	31 Grundy	47 Knox	63 Montgomery	79 Shelby	95 Wilson
16 Coffee	32 Hamblen	48 Lake	64 Moore	80 Smith	

30

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